**Production of Iron Ore in Orissa**

4030. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of iron ore in different mines of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether some iron ore mines have been closed down in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to re-open those mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As reported by the Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of iron ore in the State of Orissa during 1988 to 1990 was as under:-

| | *(In '000 tonnes)* |
|---|---|
| 1988 | 7465 |
| 1989 | 7276 |
| 1990 | 7959 |

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

**Illegal Mining of Precious Stones**

4031. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an enormous loss of revenue due to the illegal mining of the precious stones in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**News-item Captioned "Adalat Ke Nirdesh Bhi Nahi Manti Delhi Police"**

4032. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Adalat Ke Nirdesh Bhi Nahi Manti Delhi Police" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated August 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c) There was a news-item in "Jansatta" on 1st August, 1991 alleging arrest of some innocent Sikh boys and the defiance of Court Orders by the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police have reported that four persons mentioned in the newspaper, namely Jasvinder Singh, Rajvinder Singh, Veer Singh and Jagjeet Singh were arrested on 29th July, 1991. Three of them were in illegal possession of arms and the fourth was found in illegal possession of a grenade. A criminal case was registered separately against each of them. The Delhi Police have also reported that *habeas corpus* petitions moved on behalf of Jasvinder Singh and Rajvinder Singh were dismissed by the High Court.

**Verma Inquiry Commission**

4033. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Verma Commission constituted to inquire into the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has extended the period for giving statements in this regards; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The time limit for submitting statements of facts was extended by Verma Commission of Inquiry in view of several requests received from various quarters particularly concerned Government Departments and officials.

*[English]*

**Introduction of Fax Machines in Post Offices**

4035. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install FAX machines in post offices on experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for popularisation of Electronic mail service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electronic mail has not yet been intorduced.

*[Translation]*

**Alleged Irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut**

4036. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut have been brought to the notice of the Union Government,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate to alleged irregularities in execution of civil works, furnishing of official residence, use of official vehicle, etc.

(c) the complaints on detailed examination were found to be untenable and without evidence. Consequently no further action was taken.

*[English]*

**Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Orissa**

4037. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Orissa and the number out of them likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to expand the telecommunication network in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 477 telephone exchanges in Orissa as on 31.7.1991. out of these 128 are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and about 100 during 1992-93.

(b) The broad proposal to expand the telecom network in Orissa telecom circle during 1991-92 envisage, installation/expansion of over 90 electronic exchanges with a net addition of 11770 exchange lines and providing 9589 new telephone connections extension of Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility to 50 places.

**Setting up of River Board**

4038. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a River Board

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main objectives of setting up of such Boards; and

(c) the time by which such Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A Statement regarding setting up of River Board is attached.

**STATEMENT**

The River Board Act, enacted in 1956 provides for establishment of a river board on a request received from the interested Government in this behalf for